

What is claimed is:

- 1) A method for communicating messages to users, the users employ communication devices on service networks, the service networks employing various protocols, comprising:
  - assigning a unique identifier to a user;
  - associating at least one communication device with the identifier, the communication device receiving messages over a communication interface by employing a protocol and a device address;
  - associating a protocol with the device, the protocol employed for transmitting a message to the device;
  - associating at least one messaging permission with the identifier; and
  - communicating a message to a user by transmitting the message to the communication devices associated with the recipient identifier of the message, the message transmitted in accordance with device protocol, device address, and permissions.
- 2) The method of Claim 1, further comprising associating a messaging permission with at least one device.
- 3) The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing a device history for the user.
- 4) The method of Claim 1, further comprising associating a second unique identifier with the user, the second unique identifier is unique to the user.
- 5) The method of Claim 2, wherein said messaging permission is determined by the recipient.
- 6) The method of Claim 2, wherein said messaging permission is determined by the sender.
- 7) The method of Claim 1, further comprising associations at least one unique alias with said unique identifier.

8) A computer implemented global messaging system, comprising:

a database, the database storing a unique identifier for a user device, the database further associating at least one communication device with the identifier, the communication device receiving messages over a communication interface by employing a protocol and a device address, the database further storing at least one messaging permission for the identifier; and

a communication module, the communication module transmitting a message to the at least one user device associated with an identifier when receiving a message intended for the identifier, the message transmitted by employing the protocol and the device address associated with each device, the message transmitted in accordance with the messaging permission associated with the alias.

9) The system of Claim 7, wherein said database further stores messaging permission for at least one user communication device.

10) The method of Claim 7, wherein said database further stores at least one unique alias for said user device.

11) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient is associated with an alias identifier, the alias identifier is associated with at least one permission criteria, the alias identifier is further associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

selecting a user alias;

verifying that the selected alias is for a registered recipient;

compiling a message for the recipient;

checking the message length of the compiled message;

checking the permission criteria associated with the alias;

sending the message to a recipient device associated with the selected alias; and

notifying the sender of the receipt of the message.

- 12) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient associated with at least one identifier, the identifier is associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

receiving a message;

receiving a recipient identifier for said message, the recipient alias associated with at least one communication device;

verifying that the recipient identifier is available to the system;

verifying that the sender has permission to send a message to the identifier by referring to the permission associated with the identifier; and

transmitting the message to at least one communication device associated with the identifier.

- 13) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

retrieving a maximum message length for a communication device associated with the identifier;

determining the message length of the received message;

comparing the message length of the received message to the maximum message length; and

modifying the transmission of the message when the message length of the received message exceeds the maximum message length.

- 14) The method of Claim 13, wherein said modifying comprises sending the message in more than one transmission.

- 15) The method of Claim 13, wherein said modifying comprises sending a concatenated message.

- 16) The method of Claim 15, wherein said modifying further comprises adding a header to the message.
- 17) The method of Claim 10, further comprising converting a text message to a voice message when the received message is a text message and the recipient device is an audio device.
- 18) The method of Claim 10, further comprising converting a voice message to a text message when the received message is a voice message and the recipient device is a text device.
- 19) The method of Claim 10, wherein at least one device associated with the selected alias is associated with a permission criteria, further comprising applying the permission criteria for the device when a message is to be transmitted to the device.
- 20) The method of Claim 17, wherein said permission criteria refers to the message sending device.
- 21) The method of Claim 17, wherein said permission criteria refers to the message sender.
- 22) The method of claim 12, wherein said identifier is associated with at least one alias, said receiving comprising receiving a recipient alias, the recipient alias associated with said communication device via said unique identifier.
- 23) A method for creating a user group, the user group facilitates the transmission of messages to members of the group, comprising:
- assigning a group owner to the group;
  - assigning message permission criteria for the group;
  - assigning members to the group by employing identifiers of registered members;

assigning members to the group by employing device addresses for unregistered members; and

assigning a connection type for the group.

- 24) The method of Claim 23 wherein each said registered member is associated with at least one alias, said aliases being associated with one identifier, said assigning members to the group comprising: employing said aliases to identify said registered user.
- 25) The method of Claim 23, further comprising assigning a group inclusion criteria to the group.
- 26) The method of Claim 23, wherein the group inclusion criteria is determined by the group owner.
- 27) The method of Claim 23, wherein the group is created automatically by a message system as a result of the application of the group inclusion criteria to registered users.
- ~~28)~~ A method for facilitating the transmission of a message by a service provider network to a user on a foreign network, the foreign network cannot be directly reached by the service provider network, comprising:

storing a device address list;

storing aliases corresponding to devices in the address list;

searching for a device address in the device address list when the device address is the recipient address of a message and the device address belongs to a foreign network;

retrieving the alias corresponding to the device address from the device address list;

substituting the alias for the recipient address of the message; and

employing a third party service to transmit the message to a user on a foreign network, the third party service transmitting messages to users by employing alias-based addressing.

29)

A method for facilitating the transmission of a message to a user of a message system, the message system employing aliases to define device sets associated with users of the message system, the message system transmitting a message to user devices associated with an alias when the alias is the intended recipient of the message, the method comprising:

providing service providers access to database records, a database record includes at least a user device identifier and a corresponding user alias;

making a communication link available for transmitting messages from the service provider to the message system;

receiving messages from the service provider, the messages including a user alias as the intended recipient of the message;

forwarding the message to the users of the message system.

30)

A method for facilitating the reception of a message by users of a first messaging system, the messaging system employing alias identifiers in place of device addresses, the message originating from a second messaging system, comprising:

providing access to user device information and user alias information so as to enable the second messaging system to substitute a user alias for a device address;

providing a communication link for receiving data from the second messaging system; and

delivering messages received from the second messaging system to user devices in accordance with procedures employed by the first messaging system.

31) A system for communicating messages between a first data transmission system and a second data transmission system, the data transmission systems including user devices that are associated with device addresses, comprising:

a first database remote from said first and said second data transmission systems, the first database including user aliases and corresponding user devices, wherein a user alias is associated with at least one user device address, the first database further including user profile data;

a second database local to said first data transmission system, the second database storing user records from said first database for users of the first data transmission system, the second database storing partial user records for users not of the first data transmission system, the partial user records including at least a user device address and a corresponding alias;

a third database local to said second data transmission system, the third database storing user records from said first database for users of the second data transmission system, the second database storing partial user records for users not of the second data transmission system, the partial user records including at least a user device address and a corresponding alias; and

a server system, the server system coupled to said first data transmission network, the server system coupled to said second data transmission network, wherein the server system employs said first database to transmit a message from said first data network to a user device on said second data network.

32) A method for generating a valid alias, comprising:

storing attributes, the attributes corresponding to user entered information; receiving user information for a number of attributes from said stored attributes; and generating an alias by employing said user information, wherein said number of attributes are selected so as to result in a valid alias generated.